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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 22, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

### THE CULTURE WE CREATE IN OUR ARMED SERVICES MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH and my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee for their bipartisan work on this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

We advanced progressive ideals to support our military families; improve readiness; sharpen our technological edge; and foster American leadership,

our alliances, and a culture that is in line with the values of our Nation.

This bill is truly transformational when it comes to advancing diversity and inclusion, as well as fairness and justice, in our military.

We are at an inflection point when it comes to race in this country, demonstrated by peaceful protests across the country and at a time when a pandemic has widened disparities in healthcare, education, economic opportunity, and housing along racial lines.

Our armed services are not immune to these currents.

The military has historically prided itself as leading in opportunity and advancement for men and women of color, but we have fallen far short of our expectations. Today we are still grappling with a military that doesn't fully reflect our country's diversity. Forty-three percent of the Active-Duty servicemembers are people of color, yet only two of the 41 most senior generals and admirals in the military are Black, and only one woman.

As recent events have brought a reckoning in our society, we are still debating symbols of oppression. White supremacy, racism, and other toxic beliefs exist within our ranks, impacting how Black soldiers advance, their assignments in career fields, and how they are treated and assessed.

African Americans comprise just a single-digit percentage of fighter pilots and navigators, only 5 percent of Army Green Berets, 2 percent of Navy SEALs; and only 0.6 percent of the Air Force's power rescue jumpers are Black.

Structural racism still exists in our military formations. Fifty-three percent of minority servicemembers report they have seen examples of white nationalism or racism within the ranks. These issues didn't happen suddenly, but festered unchecked by a culture of indifference or intolerance.

This culture extends to gender disparities we still see in our Armed

Forces. We have made progress and, this year, witnessed historic barrier-breaking firsts:

Chief Master Sergeant JoAnne Bass was selected as the first woman to serve as the highest ranking non-commissioned officer in a service component;

Lieutenant Junior Grade Madeline Swegle became the Navy's first Black female tactical jet pilot;

The U.S. Army just welcomed its first female Green Beret.

However, there is more work to be done:

Women have never exceeded 27 percent of nominations made by Members of Congress to the prestigious service academies;

In 2009, more than 6,000 cases of sexual assault in the military were reported. The Pentagon estimates these reports amount to just 30 percent of assaults, primarily against women.

Women and men, whose trust in their fellow soldiers has been shaken, need our support and for this Congress to step up.

This year's NDAA takes important steps to create a more diverse and inclusive military. It builds on the work in 2008 of Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN, Representative HANK JOHNSON, and former Members of this Chamber Elijah Cummings and Kendrick Meek. As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, they recognized years ago that the military was not living up to the potential unlocked in 1948 when President Truman signed the executive order removing racial segregation in the Armed Forces.

Together, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Meek led the effort to create the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, whose recommendations in 2011 are the basis for many of the diversity and inclusion provisions found in this year's NDAA, which are some of the most significant steps towards diversity and inclusion

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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